



T H E

ORDINARY of NEWGATE *his* ACCOUNT,
 Of the Behaviour, Confession, and last dying Words of the
 Seven BLACKS, who were Executed at Tyburn, on Wednes-
 day, the 4th of December, 1723.

SEVEN Men, call'd *Berkshire-Blacks*, having been apprehended, (pursuant to a late Act of *Parliament* relating to Persons going arm'd in Disguise,) and committed to *Winchester-Goal*, and from thence by *Habeas Corpus* remov'd under a Guard of Soldiers to *Newgate*. On *Wednesday* the 13th of *November* last came on their Tryals, at the Court of KING'S BENCH; before the Honourable Mr. Justice *Eyre*. The Evidence being strong, the *Jury* found them all Guilty of Felony, and three of Murther likewise. On *Tuesday*, *November* 19, Sentence of Death was pronounc'd upon them; and on the 27th a Rule of Court was made for their Execution.

They had Prayers in the *Chapel* twice a-day after Condemnation; but it was their Misfortune, that they could attend to them only when first under Sentence; afterwards, losing their Senses, and being many of them Light-headed, they were mostly incapacitated from Reading and Praying; this they imputed to their miserable Place of Confinement, having been accusom'd to free Air in a Country Life. *Marshal*, who was the Person that shot when Death ensued, was most visited by God's Hand with sickness: As soon as Judgment was Pronounc'd upon him, he was taken Speechless, and continued without the power of Language, till a little before his Death. And this was the greater Misfortune, as he could not Read or Write, nor appear'd to have any, even the least Notion of his Duty, or of the danger and wretched Condition he was in: But in the Place of Confinement, were Men not under Condemnation, who assisted these unhappy Wretches in preparing for Eternity, by Reading to them, at those times when they were not sent for to the Publick *Chapel*. And no Women, that I heard of, being put amongst them, they had no Interruptions, no Avocations, not any thing to call off their Attentions from God and Heaven.

On the *Sunday* before their Execution, I was desir'd to preach to them from the following Words, *Ezek.* 19. 6, 7, and 8 Verses.

He

He went up and down among the Lions, he became a young Lion, and learned to catch the Prey; and devoured Men.

And he knew their desolate Places, and he laid waste their Cities, and the Land was desolate, and the fulness thereof; by the noise of his Roaring.

The Nations set against him on every side from the Provinces, and spread their Net over him, he was taken in their Pit; and they put him in Ward in Chains.

Among other things, we observed, the FOLLY of those who go up and down like Beasts of Prey, to catch Prey; who waste and spoil out of wantonness; as Solomon says, *It is as Sport to a Fool to do Mischief*: Could they hope to Advance themselves by Plunder? It must be as David says, *Shame shall be the Promotion of Fools*. Therefore, be ye not like to Horse and Mule which have no Understanding. He that tilleth his Land, shall have plenty of Bread; but he who followeth after vain Persons, shall have Poverty enough. Prov. 28. 19. (2.) Because that is the way to make Lands desolate, to introduce again Confusion among Men, and to break down the Walls of Civil Society. (3.) Because such Violence, such Plunderers, must expect to have the Countries set against them, to be overspread with their Net, and be put in Ward, in Chains, and Fetters. For four Things go well, a Lion; a Greyhound; an He-Goat; and a King, against whom there is no Rising. Prov. 30. 31. Therefore Men should submit themselves to the Magistrate, For he beareth not the Sword in vain. Otherwise, if they stand out, what can it end in but shame to themselves, and to their Families, as Jerem. says, *Because ye were glad, because ye Rejoiced, O ye Destroyers of my Heritage! because ye are grown fat, as the Heifer at Grass, and Bellow as Bulls: Your Mother shall be sore Confounded; she that bare you shall be ashamed.*

SECONDLY, The greater wickedness of proceeding to Devour or Destroy Men; in bidding Defiance to the World, and sinning boldly: The Psalmist says, *Bloody and Deceitful Men shall not live out half their Days.*

LASTLY, We shew'd them how to make God their Friend, tho' the Nations were set against them: How then they were to behave themselves as Men and Christians, tho' they had ravag'd the Forests for Prey, like ravenous Beasts: How they must act to escape Eternal Chains, as they were put in Ward and Chains on Earth; Enumerating the Principal Branches of their Duty, as it had been deliver'd to them before in more ample Terms.

The Account of these Unhappy Men, when under Condemnation.

1. **RICHARD PARVIN**, Master of a Publick-House in Portsmouth, from his first Commitment, was most serious in Deportment, as if some Melancholy rested upon him; but I fear, the strong Notions he entertain'd of a Reprieve, in some Measure prevented his placing his Thoughts wholly on Heaven; and his persisting in the Declaration, that he was Innocent of the Offence he was to Die for, made it questionable, whither (when alone) he had any Tears of Contrition, any hearty sorrow.

He talk'd much, that being two Months in Winchester-Goal, the Keeper (whose Name I think is Scate) continually desired James Ansel and Pink, to be honest and clear Parvin: And added, that Ansel being examin'd in
New-

Newgate, did mention to the Gentlemen some things to his Advantage; but it seems one of his Comrades said upon the Road, That *whatever happened they would not lose the Company of their Landlord*. He affirm'd that he was Master but of one poor Horse, which used to go upon the Common, nor was able to carry such Loads of Venison as they were reported to bring from the Forests; and therefore pretended he could not furnish them with Horses. But the Allegations against him, appear'd on his Tryal to be fully proved.

Being ask'd, if he was so very Innocent, how he then came to be in the Forest with the Plunderers, on the 28th of July, when the Violence was acted? He answer'd, *That he was not with them, but was indeed on the Forest; for having a young Maid, who was admired by several Gentlemen, she happen'd in an ill Mood, to fly from him, over the Forest, (call'd, as I remember Bear-Forest;) Thinking that her leaving him, might be prejudicial to his Trade, he hasten'd after her, and in the search, call'd to refresh himself at an Ale-house upon the Forest, kept by Mr. Parford (who was an Evidence against these Men) I think he added, that at that House he found his Maid. He farther said, that a Person who sells Victuals in Portsmouth, and who hired a Man to ride to London, and attend their Tryals, (that he might give them immediate Notice if his Name was call'd in Question) could have clear'd up his Innocence, and 'twould have been a Christian part to have done so. He asserted, that he could have gotten sufficient Evidence from Berkshire, had he been possess'd of Money; but the Mayor of Portsmouth having seized upon all his Substance, and he being hurried away from thence to Prison, he was so far from being able to bring Witnesses to London, that his poor Family was already reduced to a most deplorable Condition.*

He was oft and oft requir'd to forgoe these Thoughts, and to place his Mind upon a future Estate. But nothing could make him believe that he either should or ought to suffer Death: Yet his Behaviour was not any way indecent or unbecoming, but grave and dejected: Being above 40 Years of Age, he could not but consider the Consequence of neglecting his Soul, thro' Expectations of what might deceive him to his eternal Ruin.

2. *EDWARD ELLIOT*, a Lad about 17 Years old, was born at a Village between *Pettesworth* and *Guildford*: His Father (who is a Taylor) took Care to learn him to Read and Write well, and also instruct him in early Principles of Virtue. This *Elliot* said, that about a Year before he was apprehended, 30 or 40 Persons met him in *Surrey*, and hurry'd him away; the Captain of 'em saying, *He enlisted him in the Name of the KING OF BLACKS, and he must disguise his Face, and obey Orders, whither it was to break down the Heads of Fish-ponds, to slaughter Deer, to cut down Woods, or the like; and if he refused to enter himself among them, and to make a faithful Oath to be true to them and their Interests, they would turn him into a Beast, he should eat only Roots, and drink only Water, and bear Burdens, as one of their Horses, &c.* However he, at last, escap'd from them; after he had seen them abuse two Men, who spoke them foul, by setting them fast in the Ground to their Chins, and then tormenting and teasing them in a foolish and most ridiculous Manner, so as befitted Dogs, rather than Men: And after he had seen them take a Cart, by Compulsion, and oblige the Driver to carry them, and what they had with them, several Miles, out of his Way; which he did, and gave them very fair Words besides. But ha-
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ving soon escaped from them, he was afraid to talk of his Bondage, on Account of his Oath, and as knowing that they would lay wait and shoot him.

At the Time that he was apprehended, he said, he lived with a Widow Gentlewoman, where he wanted no Happiness Life could afford. But the Morning the Keeper was murder'd, *Marshall* and *Kingshell*, and four others, (of whom one only is yet taken) light of him, and (as he affirm'd) ask'd him to accompany them to Farnham-Holt; for 'twould be very beneficial to him, and so far from disobligeing, that 'twould oblige Gentlemen, who would preserve him from Danger. Accordingly, (as he added) Seven of them black'd their Faces, (mostly with rubbing Gun-powder upon them) and having provided Arms and Instruments, set out upon the fatal Expedition. He said, that he trembled, and could scarce walk to the Holt, tho' at other Times he could travel 30 Miles a Day on Foot. As they were busy at their Game, and the Deer flying about the Woods, and the Keepers all alarm'd, and with Assistance, were in the Holt in search of them; he was wander'd a great distance from his Comrades, after a Fawn that was very young, and which he intended to have taken alive, to send to a young Woman that lived at *Guildford*; when on a sudden the Keepers were upon him, and apprehended him, and tying him fast and secure, followed in pursuit of the others. They soon found them; the Keepers (as I think he said) being six, and the black'd Men seven in Number. After a fierce Encounter with Quarter-Staves, (as *Kingshell* told me) the black'd Men were desired to retire: But they resolving to dye or conquer, flung a Defiance in their Teeth, and more furiously set upon them, not regarding their Lives, nor considering the loaded Guns that the Keepers presented before them. After a warm Fight, one of the black'd Men (whose Name I am told is *Barber*) was shot, and had his Thigh shatter'd to pieces: But one of the Under Keepers, as I think, belonging to the Lady Holt, was kill'd by a shot from the Gun of *Marshall*. The Keepers being then resolved to spare none, press'd more warmly upon them, till they all ran away, leaving *Marshall* and *Kingshell* taken, and also *Barber*, who fell wounded on the Grass.

Elliot hearing this Encounter, said he was terrify'd, knowing he must answer for all that should be Transacted. And the Effects of it he found to be very heavy; No less than his Life being forfeited; but as to his Soul, he appear'd to take much Care in preparing himself for Futurity, and making his Peace with Heaven before he enter'd on Eternity; greatly lamenting his not living quietly at Home, where he might have continu'd happy, with Plenty about him.

3. *ROBERT KINGSHELL*, was about 26 Years of Age; and living in the same House with his Parents (being Apprentice to his Brother a Shoemaker) in a Village call'd *Farness*, he said his Father had a particular Eye over him, lest he should run into any Enormities; but he believed it was the Work of Providence, That the Night before the fatal Accident happen'd, that made them Guilty of the taking away the life of a Man, he was sleeping in his Bed, as was all the Family; when, about 11 of the Clock, *John Barber* gave a signal at his Chamber Window, that awaken'd him, and getting privately out of the House, he was receiv'd by *Barber* upon his Horse, and carry'd toward the Holt, which was 12 Miles distant. In the way, according to his appointment, they call'd upon *Henry Marshall*, whom they found wandering about alone in the Street where he lived; he arm'd himself, and mount-

mounting, went with them to call *Elliot* and the Rest. He added, that tho' they set out at Midnight, 'twas 8 in the Morning before the Keepers molest them.

Spying the Keepers at some distance *Henry Marshall* swearing he would fire upon the first he met, was desir'd by this *Kingsbell* to fight with Staves as stoutly as he could, but to take Care how he took Life. Which *Marshall* would not regard. He added, that when the Keepers desir'd them to retire, he answer'd, that they would retire if *Elliot* the Bound-Man should be deliver'd to them; but they had more Honour, than to go off with safety and leave their Friend in Danger. But the Encounter being begun, *Barber's* Thigh shatter'd, and he so taken, One of the Keepers besides lying on the Ground, in Blood, who expired immediately, three of the *Black'd* Men ran away, and left two fighting, one wounded, and one seiz'd and bound.

This unfortunate Man had all the Symptoms of a sincere Penitent; I was assured that he spent whole Nights in Reading and Praying, often allowing himself no Rest at all. If any were idle and impertinent he check'd them, and beg'd they'd consider whither they were going, and what Eternity was. He procur'd what Books were necessary; and took particular Care to understand the Nature of the *Sacrament*, and what ought to be the Qualifications of One who intended worthily to Receive it.

4. *HENRY MARSHALL*, This Prisoner was near 36 Years old, small of Stature, but Robust; one who distinguish'd himself by his Skill and Strength in Rustick Exercises. I was told he once broke the Arm of an Highwayman, who was robbing a Gentleman upon the Road, near to a Pasture where his Business then lay. He was Servant to a Farmer and Butcher, in a Village call'd (I think) *Lepbook*, being unmarried.

As he was bereav'd of his Speech, by the Will of God, I had little Opportunity of Discourse with him, his Tongue not being loosed till the Day before he died; but then found that he neither attempted to deny, or palliate the Murder he had committed; but appear'd, (as I could just distinguish'd his Speech) to think it was a trifling Matter, and that he had a Right to stand upon his own Defence, and not to leave a Companion among his Enemies. What he said to him to the contrary, he made but light of. When I ask'd him if he consider'd what a great work it was to repent for the Sin of Murder, so as to save his Soul from Ruin? His reply was, That to be sure he should take care of himself. As he could not Read, a Person in the Condemn'd-Hold, was desir'd to Read to him, and I hope he regarded him. When Sick, he was very uneasy, but it was on Account of his sickness, and appear'd very desirous to recover his bodily Health. But Death approaching near, he seem'd not any way to regard it, or to be any more concern'd than when it was distant; never having entertained (as I believe) any Expectations of a Pardon or Reprieve. As he was so deeply strook by the Hand of God while, under Misfortunes, we may hope that God will take pity upon him another day.

5 and 6, *EDWARD* and *JOHN BINK*, Two Brothers, were both Carters in *Portsmouth*, acconuted industrious young Fellows, till corrupted by Company of *Ansel* and others. *John* said he believed the Evidence was the severer against *Him* and *Ansel*, because some time ago, they ran away with his Wife, adding that he ought to owe them no Ill-will because they had return'd his Wife to him again. He acknowledg'd Adultery to be a Sin, but had not the same Sentiments with regard to spoiling and wasting Forests and Publick Chaces.

The Housekeeper belonging to *Parvin*, going cross the Forest of *Bear*, on Horseback, was by these Men and *Ansel* catch'd and oblig'd to cut the Throat of the Deer which they had just taken; and was also compell'd to ride with them on their Enterprizes, and to wear a *Dagger* by her Side, and Pistols accordingly. After which they forced her to *Parford's* Alehouse, where they dined upon a Hanch of Venison; and after Dinner sent out two Persons to kill more Deer, not in his Majesty's Forest but in *Waltham-Chace*, belonging to the Lord Bishop of *Winchester*. Calling one *Madok Lyon*, and another calling *King*, they glory'd in their Spoils, forgetting the Clouds of Danger that then hung o're them, and the Miseries that inevitably overtook them.

As Death approach'd, their Indisposition increased, which they both said was a greater Trouble to them, than the suffering a shameful Death, as it in a great Measure prevented their industrious Performances in a religious Way; but they humbly hoped, that as Sickness proceeded from God, God would make merciful Allowances for their great Weakness and Indisposition.

7. *JAMES ANSELL*, otherwise *STEPHEN PHILIPS*, was about 30 Years of Age, who for some Years had led an unsettled Life; being often at *Guildford*, *Portsmouth*, *London*, &c. When in the *Marshalsea* Prison, as he said, he easily got free, and he believed even his Enemies had since that Time a good Opinion of him. He farther said, that tho' some People were ready to lay Indictments against him at *Guildford* Assizes, if he escaped Death at *London*, yet he valued not of a Rush what they could do against him; for tho' he had been long suspected of robbing by a large Hill that is in the Road between *Guildford* and *Portsmouth*, not far from *Lepbouk*, and had many Years ago committed one Robbery there; yet he could prove that he kept up (the Country having a Suspicion of him) during the whole Time, when all those Robberies they intended to bring against him were committed by other Hands.

He afterwards acknowledg'd two Robberies on the *Portsmouth* Road, and also the shooting great Numbers of Deer; but said he was most concern'd, that he had despoil'd any Woods, or done any Damage, in *Squire Norton's Park*, because he had heard that that Gentleman, when his Majesty enquired of the Nature of the People call'd *Blacks*, gave a very favourable Account of them. He said he could discover above twenty Offenders not taken; but as he had mention'd some, and no Notice taken of it to his Advantage, he was only sorry he had spoke at all. Being ask'd if they had any farther Design, besides the killing of Deer? He answer'd that he had not. Being farther ask'd if he belong'd to those Men who kill'd the Man at the Inn? He said he knew several of that Company, but had no Hand in that Murder.

This Prisoner, judging it impossible he should escape the Law as long to extend his Life, set himself very earnestly to perform his Duty; was incessantly at Prayers, received the Sacrament with the greatest Devotion, and appear'd very devout to the last Moment of his Life.

At the Place of Execution.

THE Morning they suffer'd, all of them having an earnest Desire to receive the Sacrament, all acknowledg'd the Murder who committed it, and the others the Felony; the Sacrament was given to the seven Persons. *Parvin* was desirous to be then clea'd by the others, but was told 'twas an improper Time, and would ruffle their Minds with worldly Thoughts, when they ought to be intent alone on Heaven. When carry'd to suffer, the Paleness and Symptoms of Death that appear'd in their Aspects, must make every one reflect: When God visits Man for his Offences, how vain is his Strength and Courage! They who were able stood up in the Cart, during the Prayers at the Tree; but none appear'd to have any Power to pray, except *Philips*. Tho' *Parvin* had before told me, he had resign'd all Hopes of Life, yet at the Moment of Death it appear'd otherwise; for with wishful Eyes he look'd for a Reprieve, which he continually expected to be riding up towards the Tree. The Cart being drawn from under them, they all lifted up their Hands toward Heaven, and in a Moment appear'd to be dead.

This is all the Account that can be given by me

T. PURNEY, Ordinary and Chaplain.

